

School Streets Scheme – Lasswade Primary School

Six-month survey shows overall support.

71% of replies to a survey on restrictions on driving in streets around Lasswade Primary School either support the scheme (46%) or support it with changes (25%). Since last October most motorists are barred from driving in the Pendreich streets at times when children are making their way to and from Lasswade Primary School.

Almost 250 replies have been received to a survey of Parents/Carers, Residents in the restricted zone, Residents nearby, and School Staff, asking whether people support the restrictions on driving.

In each of the 4 groups there was a majority of those who replied in support of the scheme (as it is, or with changes). This was highest among Residents in the restricted zone. Although it was lowest amongst the 'parents/carers', there was still a majority in favour amongst their replies, but with considerable variation linked to how their children had gone to school previously.

Before the scheme started, 67% of all pupils usually walked, cycled, or scooted to school, 20% were usually driven part of the way then walked the rest, and another 13% of children were usually driven into the school streets.

Almost two-thirds of replies from those whose children walked, cycled, or scooted before the scheme, say they support the scheme (as it is, or with changes).

Almost half of replies from parents/carers whose children were driven part of the way (then walked the rest) before the scheme, say they support the scheme (as it is, or with changes).

Just over one-third of replies from parents/carers whose children were driven into school streets before the scheme, say they support the scheme (as it is, or with changes).

As the proportion of parent/carer replies was higher from those whose children had driven than from those whose children had walked, the results to some of the questions may not be representative of all parents/carers.

Do you think the area around the school is now a more pleasant environment to walk/cycle/scoot to school in?

50% of replies said yes, 35% said no. Answers were closely linked to whether the respondent supported the scheme (almost 90% said yes) or not (almost 90% said no)

Are the benefits of the scheme to children's safety worth the restrictions involved with the permit system?

57% of replies said yes, 30% said no. Again, answers were closely linked to whether the respondent supported the scheme (almost 90% said yes) or not (almost 90% said no).

Do you think that the times restrictions which apply are suitable?

155 replies said yes, 12 said they should be increased, and 68 said they be reduced

Do you think that the size of the restricted area should change?

128 said keep same times, 33 said increase, and 73 said decrease. (most of the replies wanting reduced times or decreased areas were from those Parents/carers who did not support the scheme).

Other suggested changes were for additional parking restrictions in various places such as Eskbank Road, and around junctions and crossing points, for more enforcement of the driving restrictions, and action against drivers mounting the footway or leaving engines running while stationary.

The survey was distributed in April and May to 178 addresses in the zone (the 5 Pendreich Streets), 488 in nearby streets (Eskbank Road, McQuade St, Waugh Path, Martin Grove, Bellfield View, Scollon Avenue, Viewbank View, Viewbank Road, Viewbank Drive, Eldindean Road, Eldindean Terrace, Golf Course Road, James Leary Way) and (via the school) to 440 parents/carers, and to school staff. Return rates ranged from 41% for residents in the restricted zone, to 25% for parents/carers, and 11% for residents in nearby streets outwith the zone. There is an overlap between categories as some replies were from parents/carers who also received forms as residents. In these cases the forms were included in the parent/carer category. Some forms were issued and or returned by email.

The data on proportions of children travelling by different modes is from the Lasswade Primary section of the Hands-up Survey of all Scottish Schools in September 2017. Only one main mode is allowed in it, while in the School Street six-month survey there was an average of 1.7 modes given by parents/carers.

A separate hands-up survey of 177 pupils in Primaries 4-7 in April 2018 asked some of the same questions. Most of the children said there was now a more pleasant environment to walk/cycle to school, and they feel safer when walking, cycling or scooting to school.

Do you think the area around the school is now a more pleasant environment to walk/cycle to school?

60% said yes, 18% said no.

Do you feel safer when walking, cycling or scooting to school?

55% said yes, 16% said no.